

Frank Wayland Palmer

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wholly an error. True, I gave him the use of the resources of the Historical Department of the State, as I would have given them to any other citizen who was engaged in historical work, but no line and no statement in that publication can be attributed to me or to my influence or agency. If Mr. Gue were living he would cordially endorse this statement. Whatever of credit or criticism properly appertains to this work should inure wholly to Mr. Gue, and nothing whatever of that nature should be attributed to me. CHARLES ALDRICH.

NOTABLE DEATHS.

FRANK WAYLAND PALMER was born at Manchester, Ind., Oct. 11, 1827; he died in Chicago, Dec. 3, 1907. We are of the opinion that he was named for Francis Wayland, the illustrious educator, but that he changed his name in later years to "Frank," as he was familiarly called by his friends. After receiving a common school education he learned the trade of a printer in Jamestown, New York. From there he went to New York City, where he worked as a compositor for several months, eventually returning to Jamestown, where in 1846 he became joint proprietor and editor of *The Journal*, the old paper upon which he had served his time as an apprentice. He was elected to the New York Legislature in 1851, and re-elected in 1853, serving two terms in the House. In 1858 he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, where he became the editor and one of the proprietors of *The Daily Times*. At the session of the Iowa Legislature in 1860, he was elected State Printer, his competitors being J. B. Howell of *The Keokuk Gate City*, and John Teesdale of *The Des Moines Register*. He served as State Printer of Iowa four terms, resigning in 1869. In 1868 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, and re-elected two years afterwards. He removed to Chicago in 1873, acquiring an interest in *The Inter Ocean*, of which he was editor-in-chief until 1876. He was appointed Postmaster of that city in 1877, and served until 1885. He was appointed Government Printer in 1889, serving until 1894, when he was removed by President Cleveland, who appointed a Democrat in his place. Upon the election of President Harrison he was reappointed. In this latter capacity he served altogether eleven years, during which time he projected the new Government Printing-office which was built at a cost of several millions of dollars. That great undertaking, not only in the construction of the building, but in its inception and all its interior appointments, was his work pure and simple. It is unquestionably the greatest printing-office in existence, without an equal on either side of the ocean. It will remain his monument, so far as any such public work can be considered any man's monument, for all time. It has been considered a work of great extravagance, but this, if true, was made so by the demands of Congress upon Mr. Palmer to execute the public printing. His own administration was a most distinguished success. While he had able assistance in the work, from men whom he had appointed and called to his aid, the development of that great public work was due to him. His administra-

tion was a success, and though a bitter war was made upon him at the close of his last term, when he was removed by President Roosevelt, it is a well-known fact that so far as his personal integrity was concerned he came out of the contest without blot or stain. He would probably have been removed or have resigned about the same time, in consequence of his advanced years, but he became, from the force of circumstances, embroiled in the contest between the rival typesetting machines, and this ended with his removal from office. At the time of his death Mr. Palmer had a few months previously passed his 80th birthday. He had a wide acquaintance in Iowa and is well remembered by hundreds of people who have survived since the days when he was editor of *The Des Moines Register*. Our public documents for eight years bear his imprint. He also had a wide acquaintance over the country. Personally he was a kind-hearted excellent gentleman, a model of everything commendable in the line of good habits from the days of his apprenticeship in the office of *The Jamestown Journal* to the time he breathed his last, clean, upright, honorable in his dealings with others. Limitations of space will not admit of as exhaustive an article relating to Mr. Palmer as we would be glad to present in *The Annals*. But the statement of a few facts ever so briefly will form the ground from which to estimate the character and life work of the man. When he was a resident of this city, where he married and where his children were born, during one of the cold winters, he was in the habit every morning of bringing down from his home a little pail of milk for some poor children who lived not far from *The Register* office. This fact has been beautifully written out in the editorial columns of his old paper. It is a unique incident, which shows the tender-hearted nature of the man. Some time before he left the office of *The Inter Ocean*, that paper had failed and Mr. Palmer thereby lost every dollar he had in the world. He was considerably in debt. From that day to the time of his death he was determined to pay these debts as far as possible. His efforts in that direction kept him a poor man. He could have taken the benefit of the bankruptcy law and escaped the responsibility for the debts, but that suggestion he would not entertain for a moment. He met the responsibilities as far as he was able. On the day of the funeral the great Government Printing-office at Washington bore American flags at half-mast from daylight until dark, and the hundreds of employes when the time arrived for the funeral, stood for five minutes with bowed and uncovered heads in respect for their former employer, with some of whom he had been associated for more than a decade. These tributes of sympathy and respect were very touching, and they showed the deep impression he had made upon men with whom he had been long and intimately associated.

JEFFERSON SCOTT POLK was born on the 18th day of February, 1831, near Georgetown, Scott county, Kentucky; he died at Des Moines, Iowa, November 3, 1907. He was graduated from Georgetown college and studied law under R. R. Cable, later president of the C., R. I. & P. R. R., at Georgetown, and was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1855. Mr. Polk removed to Des Moines in 1856, entering the practice of the law at a strong bar at which he early took high rank. After a few years alone, he became associated with the late General M. M. Crocker and Judge P. M. Casady under the style of Casady, Crocker & Polk and afterward with F. M. Hubbell as Polk & Hubbell which firm dissolved in 1887. Although every detail of Mr. Polk's career at the bar

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